Terrell Shorty

Research Proposal

December 2012

Prof. Moore

The Effects of Children without Fathers

For this paper I will be talking about how much of a bad or good effect children may have without their father being around. Many mothers may step up and play both the role of a father and a mother. Mothers will have to become the breadwinner and be the caregiver at the same time. For this paper my audience will be single mothers and children who were or are being raised with a father. I am choosing this topic because my older sister and my girlfriend both go through similar situations related to this paper.

In a lot of families without a father, financial problems become very hard for the mother to handle alone. With this being said, mothers attempt to put the child's father on child support. A lot of fathers tend to get mad and they take it out on the child as well as the mother for putting them on child support so they may decide to not come around the child anymore, because they feel that paying child support alone is enough for the child. This may become a very big issue for the child; they may feel neglected by their father which could bring about psychological problems in their near future.

It is not always divorce or parents breaking up that causes the child's father to not be around. Other reasons that a child's father may not be around could be due to death, illness, or imprisonment. Young men who lose their father at a young age due to death may feel that it’s their job to step up and take their fathers place and become the breadwinner and helping out their mother with bills and other necessities around the house. Children who lose their father to the prison may feel as if the world is against them because someone has taken their father away from them and they only have a limited time and certain days that they are able to see him. When a child's father becomes very ill, it can lead to a very big stress point in the child's life. The child may miss school, stay off to themselves, or possibly go into a very deep stage of depression.

Ellen Levitt says, “Children who have fathers in their lives learn better, have higher self-esteem and show fewer signs of depression than children without fathers.” Children without their father in their lives may tend to slack off in school or having problems with learning, have low self-esteem, and show more signs of depression than a child with their father in their life. Research shows that boys who grow up without their father in their lives are more likely to have keeping their job. Research also shows that girls who grew up without their father being around are more likely to become sexually active at a younger age and have children of their own outside of marriage (Sara McLanahan). Sara also states that, “three general factors account for the disadvantages associated with father absence: economic deprivation, poor parenting, and lack of social support”.

Around Father’s day it can be very depressing for children whose father is not around. In many cases children will get their mother a father’s day gift instead and celebrate Father’s day with her. By doing this children show their mother that they are not only thankful for their mother as a mother, but the things she do to pick up the slack of a father as well. Not only does not having a father around on Father’s day affect children, it can also affect grown-ups as well. With this being said, around that time of year grown-ups whose father is not around or never was may tend to ease off to them for a moment to think back over their childhood without a father.

Children without his or her father in his or her life may tend to go through a lot of different things than any other child who has both of his or her parents in his or her life would. After reading my research paper, one will be able to see the different reasons that a child’s father may not be a part of his or her life and the different effects that this may have on that child.

Works Cited Page

McLanahan, Sara. *Life Without Father: What Happens to the Children?* N.p.: ASA Magazine, 2005. Print.

Levitt, Ellen B*. UM Reaserchers Find Further Evidence to Support the Importance of Fathers* Baltimore: University of Maryland Medical Center, 2008. Print.

Blank, Rebecca M. “Absent Fathers: Why Don’t We Ever Talk About the Unmarried Men?” *It Takes a Nation: A New Agenda for Fighting Poverty*. Princeton University Press. (1997); 42-47. Rpt. in Writing in the Disciplines: A Reader and Rhetoric for Academic Writers, 6th ed. Ed. Mary Lynch Kennedy and William J.Kennedy. Boston; Pearson 2009. 439-44. Print.